

JG02 REC'D PCT/PTO 0 4 APR 2002

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW  
EMPLOYMENT LAW

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ITG/Certified  
SNT/Copy

March 25 2002

Assistant Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Patent Application  
Title: IMPROVEMENTS IN AND RELATING TO PORTABLE DISC HOLDERS  
Serial No.: 10/030948  
Date Filed: January 8, 2002  
Attorney Docket No.: ARD100USA

Dear Sir:

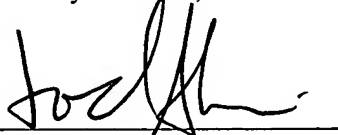
Enclosed for filing is a certified copy of the priority United Kingdom patent application number 9916996.3, filed July 20, 1999, for the above referenced Patent Application. This Application was filed on January 8, 2002, in the name of the inventor(s) listed on the Declaration and Power of Attorney.

This certified copy of the above priority patent application is believed to fulfill the requirement regarding the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119.

Please charge any fee due not paid by a check provided herewith, and/or charge any underpayment in any fee, and/or credit any overpayment in fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-2381.

Please direct any comments or questions concerning this submission to Skinner and Associates, Attention the undersigned attorney.

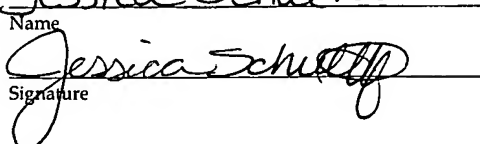
Respectfully submitted,

  
Joel D. Skinner, Jr.  
Reg. No. 33,786

Enclosure  
cc: Richard Bailey (For Records)

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Date of Deposit: 3/25/02 I hereby certify that this paper/fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail-Postage Prepaid, under 37 CFR 1.8, on the date indicated above, and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner For Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Jessica Schultz  
Name  
  
Signature



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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I, the undersigned, being an officer duly authorised in accordance with Section 74(1) and (4) of the Deregulation & Contracting Out Act 1994, to sign and issue certificates on behalf of the Comptroller-General, hereby certify that annexed hereto is a true copy of the documents as originally filed in connection with the patent application identified therein.

In accordance with the Patents (Companies Re-registration) Rules 1982, if a company named in this certificate and any accompanying documents has re-registered under the Companies Act 1980 with the same name as that with which it was registered immediately before re-registration save for the substitution as, or inclusion as, the last part of the name of the words "public limited company" or their equivalents in Welsh, references to the name of the company in this certificate and any accompanying documents shall be treated as references to the name with which it is so re-registered.

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Re-registration under the Companies Act does not constitute a new legal entity but merely subjects the company to certain additional company law rules.



Signed

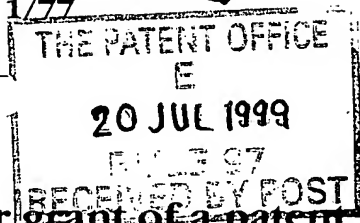
*Andrew*

Dated

29 January 2002



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# Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

The Patent Office

Cardiff Road  
Newport  
Gwent NP9 1RH

1. Your reference

RRH.P04219UK

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

20 JUL 1999

9916996.3

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

Robin James Price  
3 Highdale Avenue  
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Patents ADP number (if you know it)

7319478001

7660624001

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

4. Title of the invention

Improvements in and relating to  
Portable Disc Holders

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

A R Davies & Co

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom  
to which all correspondence should be sent  
(including the postcode)

27 Imperial Square  
Cheltenham  
GL50 1RQ

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

570001 ✓

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number  
(if you know it)

Date of filing  
(day / month / year)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing  
(day / month / year)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
  - b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
  - c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
- See note (d))

No

# Patents Form 1/77

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form.  
Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form

Description 5

Claim(s)

Abstract

Drawing(s) 2

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents (please specify)

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.
- Signature *AR Davies & Co* Date *19/7/99*  
A R Davies & Co

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom
- Richard R Halstead 01242 524520

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## Notes

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- b) Write your answers in capital letters using black ink or you may type them.
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### Improvements in and relating to Portable Disc Holders

This invention relates to portable disc holders of the type which are typically used to hold or contain compact discs, or CD's as they are more familiarly known.

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Compact disc holders fall generally into two types, the first being in the form of a rectangular plastics box which includes a hinged lid or front cover over a rectangular housing including a back cover for containing the disc. The "height" of the disc holder relative to the length of the hinge is slightly in excess of the diameter of the disc, whereas the "width" of the disc holder is greater, as it must include the width of the hinge itself. Although these kinds of disc holder are in common use and efficiently protect compact discs from damage, nevertheless they are unsuitable for transporting such discs by post as they are generally heavy and can become broken during transport.

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The second type of portable disc holders available are typically made from cardboard, as is shown in patent number GB2319242B, and include a back cover onto which are bonded sheets of shaped cardboard having a central aperture corresponding generally to the external diameter of the disc to be held, over which is then placed an aperture but not wholly circular top sheet which thereby forms a pocket into which the disc may be inserted, with a front cover being hingedly connected to the back cover to protect the otherwise exposed face of the disc. This type of disc holder is generally lighter than a plastics one and therefore is preferable for transportation by post, but a major disadvantage arises by the fact that, in order to protect all edges of the disc from accidental damage, the overall "height" of the holder is greater such that the disc holder

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is essentially square, as opposed to being rectangular as in the plastics version. This means, in turn, that such relatively lightweight compact disc holders cannot fit into standard sized compact disc storage facilities and for this reason they are generally only used for demonstration discs sent by post or included with magazines etc., rather than  
5 being used as a substitute for the more traditional plastics holder commonly used to house all kinds of compact discs, including those for playing computer games.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a lightweight portable disc holder in which the aforementioned disadvantages are obviated.

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According to the invention there is provided a portable disc holder, the holder comprising or including a frame member adapted to circumferentially surround a disc at the disc's edges and being at least partially in contact therewith to restrain planar movement of the disc when held in the frame, the frame member including flange means  
15 into which at least part of an outer edge of the disc can be inserted for preventing or inhibiting planar movement of the disc in that region, and remote from the flange means on a generally opposite portion of the frame a resiliently moveable flange means adapted to restrain planar movement of an adjacent edge portion of the disc when the disc is mounted in the frame, the resiliently moveable flange means permitting entry of that  
20 portion of the disc into the frame following resilient deformation of the flange.

Conveniently, the flange means remote from the resiliently moveable flange means is also resiliently moveable, and each comprise an integrally formed inwardly facing flange relative to the frame, behind which is a slot to permit each flange to be pushed

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radially outwardly relative to the orientation of a disc to be stored to permit entry of the disc into the frame.

Conveniently, the frame member has a back cover and a hinged front cover, which hinged front cover may have a projection at or near a leading edge thereof cooperable with a correspondingly shaped recess in the frame such that the front cover can be closed by a snap fit and released in the same way.

In an alternative embodiment of the invention, the disc holder is provided with a separate sleeve into which the disc holder and a disc may be inserted.

The invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portable disc holder according to a first embodiment of the invention and showing a disc stored therewithin in broken outline,

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a portable disc holder according to a second embodiment of the invention including a back cover and a hinged front cover, and

Figure 3 is a sectional detail view along the axis II-II of Figure 2.

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Referring firstly to Figure 1 a portable disc holder according to this embodiment of the invention comprises a rectilinear plastics frame member (1) into which may be inserted and stored a compact disc (2) shown in broken outline. This is achieved by the disc (2) being restrained by a pair of oppositely disposed part circular recesses (3,4) in the front face (1a) of the frame member (1) and being of circumference corresponding to the external circumference of the disc (2), which recesses (3,4) each define a corresponding web portion (5,6) of the frame member (1).

A pair of oppositely disposed flanges (7,8) project inwardly relative to the centre of the disc (2) such that the disc (2) is captured within the recesses (3,4).

Behind each of the flanges (7,8) are respective slots (9,10) which therefore permit resilient deformation of the flanges (7,8) radially outwardly in a manner to be described.

Turning now to Figure 2, there is shown a view of a portable disc holder substantially identical to that of Figure 1 but including a rear cover (11) secured to the rear of the frame (1), such as by adhesive, a spine portion (12) which acts as a hinge and to which is attached the front cover (13) which may therefore be closed to entirely cover the front (1a) of the frame member (1).

Protruding from the inside of the front cover (13) near to the leading edge thereof is a part spherical projection (14) which, when the front cover (13) is closed, enters the slot (10) and, as can be seen more clearly with reference to Figure 3, engages

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by means of a snap fit with a correspondingly shaped recess (15) so that the portable disc holder can be closed or opened as required.

As can be seen more clearly with reference to Figure 3, the flange (8)  
5 covers an edge portion (2a) of the disc (2), thereby restraining the latter from planar movement out of the frame (1). However, because the flange (8) can be pushed in the direction shown arrowed in Figure 3 by virtue of the presence of the slots (10) the disc (2) can be inserted and removed from the frame (1) by being pressed, respectively, into or out of the frame (1), thereby forcing the flanges (7,8) apart in order to permit insertion  
10 or removal as the case may be.

Although the embodiments described above and shown in the drawings utilise diametrically opposed pairs of moveable flanges (7,8) nevertheless it will be readily appreciated that only one such flange may be moveable and the other may be fixed, and  
15 indeed it will also be appreciated they may not be diametrically opposed and could, for example, be disposed at a position slightly in excess of 90° to each other relative to the central axis of the disc. Similarly, although a rectangular portable disc holder is shown of size corresponding to a standard CD disc holder nevertheless it will be appreciated that other shapes may be adopted without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention.

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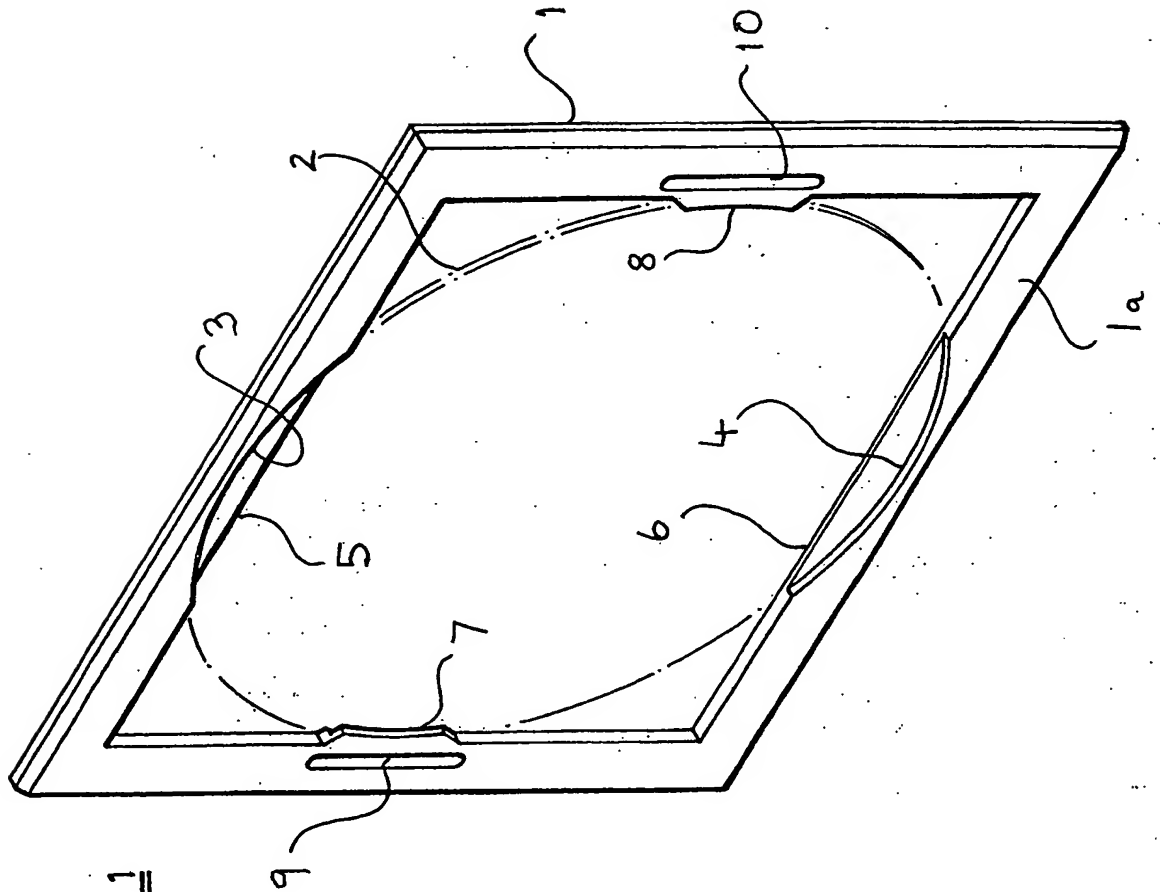
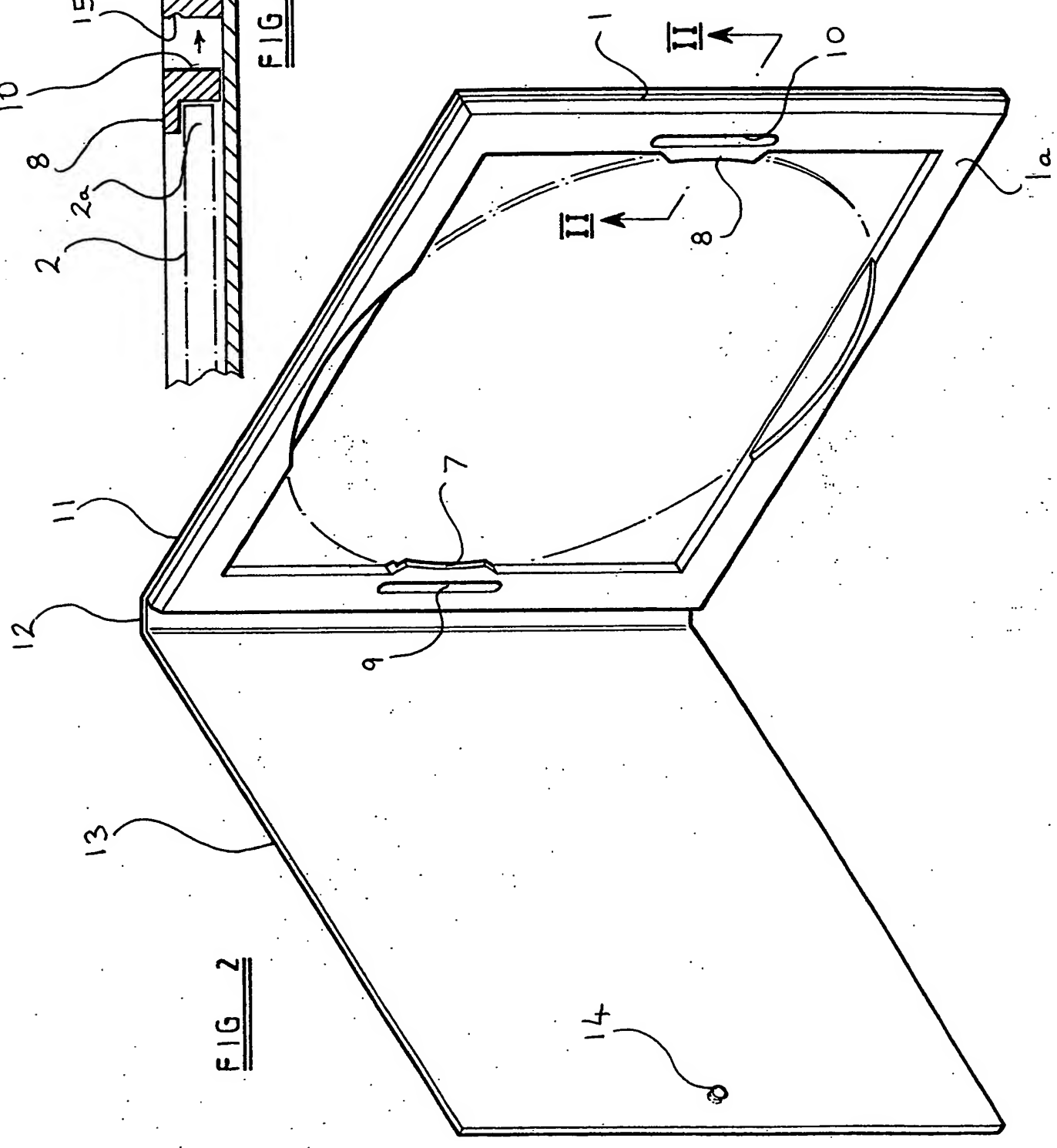
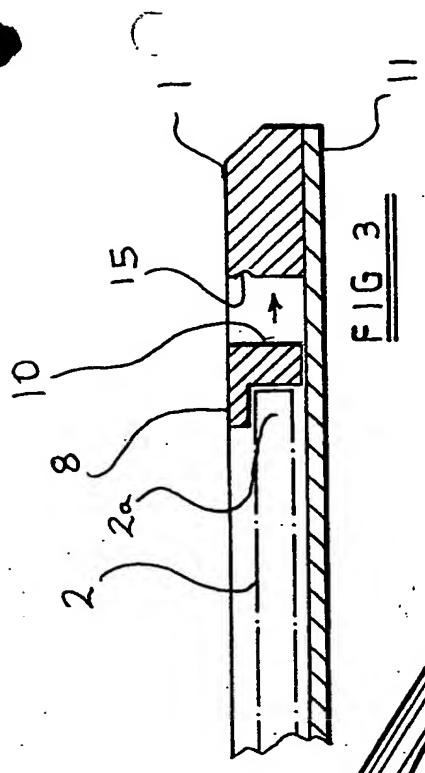


FIG 1

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